

Why Plant Native

- Native plants can withstand our varying climate best
- Natives have traits which make them suitable to our area
- Require little or no fertilization
- Provide the appropriate food for Virginia wildlife

Shrub: Arrowwood Viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*)



- This shrub has everything a gardener could hope for:
- Beautiful and fragrant spring flowers,
- Ease of care,
- Food for the birds and critters when the berries appear, and
- Spectacular fall foliage.

Shrub: Black Haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*)



- Beautiful flowers in Apr-May,
- Blue-black edible berries, which are good for preserves,
- High wildlife value
- Nice fall color, a reddish purple.
- Meets all the criteria I want in a plant: Good shape, flowers, edible fruit, and fall color, A great little all around shrub!

Shrub: Spice Bush (*Lindera benzoin*)



- Understory plant
- Early Spring tiny aromatic flowers
- Fall berries attractive to birds
- Yellow autumn color
- Host to spicebush swallowtail butterfly
- Deer don't bother.

Shrub: American holly (*Ilex americana*)



- Beautiful evergreen
- Blends well with other plants.
- Adds depth and interest in a forest setting
- Provides food and shelter for wildlife

Shrub: Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)



- Small deciduous shrub
- Blooms early summer
- Erect shrub with arching branches
- Dark green foliage turns flame red in fall
- Holds leaves longer than many shrubs
- “Little Henry” is a wonderful 2 -3’ variety

Shrub: Red Chokeberry

(Aronia arbutifolia)



- White flowers in spring to bright red berries into winter
- Nectar for butterflies, fruit attracts birds
- Salmon to brilliant scarlet fall foliage
- Stiff, upright habit with a vase shape; spreads by suckers; tends to be leggy

Shrub: Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*)



- Multibranched large shrub or small tree
- Can be pruned to one trunk
- White flowers in early spring
- Berries in early summer - right when the birds are needy
- Berries consumable - taste of blueberries - in June!

Shrub or Tree: Dogwood (*Cornus*)



- Always beautiful
- Berries provide food for wildlife
- 4 seasons of interest
- A true Virginia plant!

Tree: Redbud (*Ceris*)



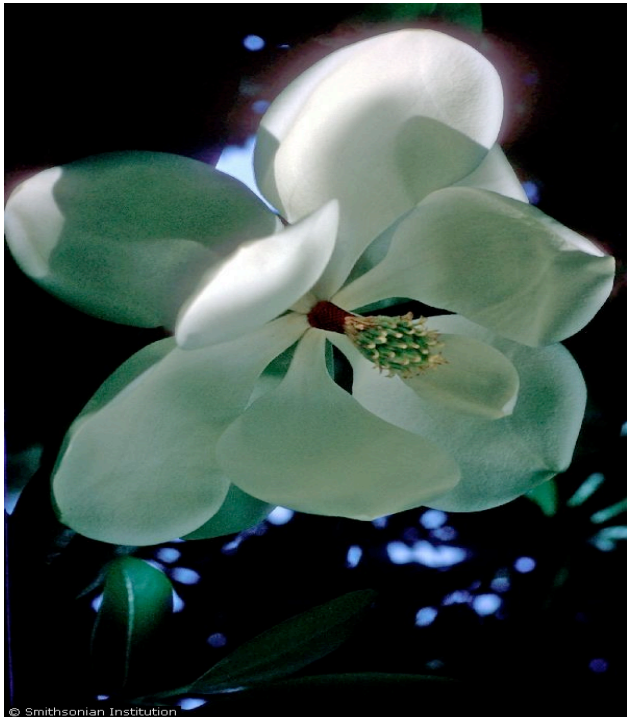
- Small deciduous tree or large shrub
- Early pink flowers along bare shoots
- Leaves are rounded to heart shaped
- Beautiful under-story tree
- Flowers have a nutty flavor and can be used in salads and in making pickled relish
- Seed pods can also be eaten when tender and green

Tree: Sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*)



- Glossy, leathery leaves provide contrast
- Sculptural, multiple silvery branches that lead the eye through to what is beyond, creating a sense of space where there really isn't any;
- Occasional gorgeous waxy flowers
- Small size (under 15') which is graceful and charming.
- Because of the open structure, it's easy to grow other plants underneath, including perennial flowers and low growing shrubs.

Tree: Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)



- Stately presence with large evergreen leaves,
- Showy fragrant flowers,
- Provides food and shelter for wildlife.
- New cultivars 'Bracken's Brown Beauty' and 'Little Gem'
- Ideal for a low-maintenance landscape.

Tree: Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*)



- Large (to 90') deciduous tree, living up to 200 years
- As a young tree, the bark is smooth, but when it matures, it becomes shaggy.
- Nuts are edible with an excellent flavor - a favorite for those in the know
- The tap root is as deep as the tree is tall
- A true investment for the next generations

Tree: Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*)



- Small deciduous tree or large shrub
- June, July white flowers on long panicles
- Leaves dark green in summer and vivid red in fall
- Shallow root system does best with little competition in acidic soil
- Name Sourwood derived from the flavor when chewing leaves. Used to alleviate dry mouth. Do not swallow!

Grass: Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*) 'Shenandoah'



- Year round interest
- Spring leaves are green
- Summer leaf tips turn a dark red similar to Japanese blood grass except it gets quite tall!
- Inflorescence has seed-like quality.
- From afar, appears blurry. In winter, resembles wheat.

Flower Combo: *Echinacea purpurea*, *Rudbeckia fulgida*, and *Coreopsis*.



- Flower prolifically, even during drought conditions.
- beautiful, pretty “faces”
- They look good in a cottage garden, but also at home in a formal setting
- Easy to propagate, but never invasive
- New varieties developed all of the time

Herbaceous: Virginia Bluebell (*Mertensia virginica*)



- Bellshaped flower, normally blue or violet. Sometimes pink or white
- Plant has pleasing foliage - wide, lush leaves noticeable especially when surrounded by other, smaller leaved, spring bloomers
- Plant is dormant by June - just in time for your Iris or Hosta to take over!

Herbaceous: Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium*)



- Beautiful pink flowers atop tall, easy to care for plants.
- Easily moved
- Deer proof/resistant
- Drought Tolerant
- Late Summer Bloom

Herbaceous: Hyssop (*Agastache*)



- Perennial herb
- Nice licorice fragrance when brushed against
- Orange and Pink attract Hummingbirds
- Blue Attracts bees and butterflies
- Deer proof/resistant

Herbaceous: Chicory (*Cichorium intybus* L.)



- Perennial herb
- Blue or Lavender Flowers
- Roots baked, ground, and sold as a coffee additive
- Becoming very important pasture plant
- Cultivated forms include *C. endivia*, endive!

Herbaceous: Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)



- So many Choices!
- Midsummer - Early Fall bloom
- Heights range 24 - 48"
- Colors - white, pink, rose, lavender
- Attractive to bees, butterflies, birds
- Withstands Drought

Herbaceous: Virginia Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*)



- Upright to scrambling plant with long, thin leaves
- Heights range 1 to 2'
- Blooms late spring through early fall
- Colors - white, pink, purple or blue
- Though can be considered a weed, the beautiful long lived flower makes it a keeper

Herbaceous: Trillium (*Trillium*)



- Lovely first spring woodland wildflower
- True leaves are underground, above is bracts
- Seeds are spread by ants and mice
- Picking the flowers can seriously injure plant

Invasive Alien Plants

The following lists some of the plants we can purchase at nurseries which are on the DCR Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia list.

Privet (shrub)

Honeysuckle (vine)

Porcelain-berry (vine)

Mimosa (tree)

English Ivy (vine)

Japanese Barberry
(shrub)

Japanese Spiraea (shrub)

Linden Viburnum (shrub)

Wisteria (vine)

Native Plant References

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation site has downloadable pdf files of native plants as well as the invasives.

[www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/
nativeplants.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/nativeplants.shtml)

Fairfax County/Green Springs site contains downloadable files of native plants

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/
gardening.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gsgp/gardening.htm)

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